

XXIII.—*On the Birds collected by Mr. F. J. Jackson, F.Z.S., during his recent Expedition to Uganda through the Territory of the Imperial British East-African Company.*
By R. BOWDLER SHARPE, LL.D., F.Z.S., &c. *With Notes by the Collector.*—Part I.

(Plates IV.—VI.)

It is with great pleasure that I lay before the readers of 'The Ibis' an account of one of the most interesting collections of birds that have ever been sent from Africa. Mr. Jackson is already well known to us from the good scientific work that he has done in the Kilimandjaro district and on the Lamu coast (*cf.* Shelley, *Ibis*, 1888, pp. 287–307). But the present collection comes as quite a surprise upon all students of African Ornithology, for it seems to open up a totally new idea of the affinities of the fauna of this part of the continent. After studying it I am indeed afraid that all our notions as to the existence of definite zoological subregions in Africa will have to be reconsidered.

The following outline of Mr. Jackson's route during the journey upon which the present collection was made is slightly abbreviated from the account of it given in the 'Morning Post' of Jan. 2, 1891:—

"Mr. Jackson started from Mombasa in the summer of 1889, and left the important station of Machakos, on the Kikuyu frontier, on the 7th of August. Machakos is about 250 miles from the coast, and is situated in lat. 1 deg. 27 min. south, and long. 37 deg. 20 min. east. Instead of taking the regular route thence by Ngongo, Mr. Jackson shaped his course north-west through the hitherto unattempted Kikuyu country. After crossing the intervening undulating grassy plain, the Kikuyu forest—the stronghold of the Wa-Kikuyu—was entered, and to the surprise of the party, 'from the very first the people were most friendly in every way, brought in large quantities of food, and, with one exception, never made an attempt to steal.' Having made 'blood brothers' with the Kikuyu chief, Mr. Jackson marched out of the forest and over 'immense tracts of land which were probably once covered



Map of Mr. Jackson's Route.

with dense forest, but are now in the most wonderful state of cultivation.' Indian corn, sweet-potatoes, yams, two or three kinds of beans, bananas, and sugar-cane flourish in immense quantities, and all these products are very cheap and abundant. These Wa-Kikuyu are a people to whom, for the best of reasons, the neighbouring tribes of Masai give a very wide birth.

"The weather (August) was cold and misty. Many species of the English flora were recognized on the march through this interesting country, 'amongst them the common bracken in large bushes, in some places growing from 6 ft. to 8 ft. high.' They also met with white clover, forget-me-nots, and other familiar flowers.

“ Mr. Jackson continued in this country from August 11 until he reached Mianzini (east of Lake Naivasha) on August 22. Halting at Mianzini to lay in supplies of food for the 16 days’ march to Sotik—for Mr. Jackson decided to take the shortest route to the lake westward, *via* the Mau Escarpment and Lumbwa—they found the weather for the most part delightful, with sometimes frosty nights; one night the thermometer registered 6 deg. Fahrenheit—at less than 1 deg. south of the equator. On September 10 the party left Mianzini, crossed the Kinangop plain, and on the 11th reached Lake Naivasha, where they camped. On the 16th they left the lake and struck west, crossing over the end of the Ndabib hills and dropping down on a plain occupied by a good number of Masai.

“ From the 17th to the 20th the party was engaged in ascending the Mau Escarpment, a ridge from 8000 ft. to 9000 ft. high, which runs almost due north and south from 1 deg. north latitude to about 2 deg. south of the equator. The ascent was made over thick belts of forest, bush, and long grass, and in places was a very rough road. At the highest point reached the altitude was 9620 ft. by boiling-point. From here the march was directed nearly westward to Ukowe Bay in Lower Kavirondo, the route being a good way to the north of that taken by Dr. Fischer. After two days’ marching over rolling grassy hills and boggy hollows, the edge of the forest was reached. The march through this trackless forest was very trying. Some of the trees were truly colossal. For the most part the weather was wet and miserable, but when the sun shone through the trees down into the gorges and ravines the scenery was magnificent.

“ The Sotik country is open, but hilly. Lumbwa, the district next to Sotik, is open and undulating, and crossed by several large streams.

“ On October 20 Kavirondo was entered, and here the change from the cool air of the uplands of Sotik and Lumbwa proved trying to men and beasts alike. No news of Stanley (who was then supposed to be on the east side of the Lake) could be had, and Dr. Fischer was the only white man who

had ever passed through the country. The people were noisy, the men mostly in a semi-drunken state from the effects of bang and smoking. On October 26 the party arrived at the Lake, and on November 7 Qua Sundu (now known as Mumiya) was reached—the same place where Thomson arrived in December 1883 and Fischer in March 1886—about 30 miles from the north-east corner of Victoria Nyanza.

“From Qua Sundu Mr. Jackson, leaving a party there to await his return, marched northward to explore the Suk country, passing the inhabited district of Kitosh (where iron-ore is plentiful and worked by the natives), into the wilderness skirting the eastern slopes of Mount Elgon. Water here is abundant and deliciously cool, the hills very rough and stony, ‘with beautiful white quartz showing through the surface and scattered about in loose pieces.’ Ivory is very cheap and plentiful, as the people have no use for it except to make armlets, &c.; a 16-lb. tusk can be had for six strings of beads. Fish is plentiful in the rivers and excellent. It was Mr. Jackson’s purpose to proceed as far as Lake Rudolf (which Count Teleki had lately visited), but on reaching Ngoboto, where he had calculated on getting food-supplies, he found the people so hostile, on account of the looting and raiding of Teleki’s men, that he was forced to return.

“On the return journey a good-sized lake was sighted some 30 miles off to the north-west; this was named Lake Salisbury. Mount Elgon was visited and explored with interesting results. Ascending from the district of Savé on the north side, a dense forest was passed through from 6000 ft. to 9000 ft., after which they entered open ground with bushes dotted about, heaths, and coarse grass. From 11,000 ft. to 13,000 ft. ‘a curious tree, with straight rough stem and large leaf-top,’ grows in abundance. On the 17th of February, 1890, Mr. Jackson and his party entered the crater of Mount Elgon and encamped there for the night. The crater is from eight to nine miles in diameter, and the bottom appeared boggy and swampy. ‘Here the River Angalul rises and flows through the exceedingly precipitous break in the side of the crater;

also the River Sum, flowing N.W. into Lake Salisbury.' The cold was very great; but fortunately there was no rain, and only two men died from cold and exertion. The highest point reached was (by boiling-point) 14,894 ft., and none of the other peaks were more than 50 ft. higher. On descending the south side of the mountain the first of the celebrated caves was met with at a height of 7500 ft.

"On arriving again at Qua Sundu or Mumiyas, Mr. Jackson and his friends were astonished to hear that the redoubtable Dr. Peters had passed by a month before and had hoisted his flag all over the country. Mr. Jackson pulled down Dr. Peters's flag and hoisted the Company's instead, and after buying a supply of food, started for Uganda by the north side of the lake—along the track of Bishop Hannington. The most interesting experience of this part of his travels was his acquaintance with the country of Wakoli, in Usoga. The change is described as marvellous. They marched 'through vast groves of bananas' up to Wakoli's capital. Here they were received with the most bounteous hospitality.

"On March 26 they left this land of friendship and abundance, and on April 5 reached the Nile, which was crossed on the following day, and Mwanga's capital, Mengo, reached on the 14th.

"On June 24 Mr. Jackson left Mumiyas (Qua Sundu) in charge of a headman and party, and marched coastward by way of Kabaras, Elgeyo, and Lake Baringo to the north end of Lake Naivasha, which was reached on the 27th. On the 8th of August he arrived at Machakos after an absence of eleven months. The party returned to Mombasa on September 3, after accomplishing the longest and most successful tour of exploration yet made in those regions."

The accompanying sketch of Mr. Jackson's route (p. 234) has been taken, by permission, from the large map prepared by the Royal Geographical Society for the illustration of the narrative of Mr. Jackson's journey, read before that Society, February 9th, 1891 (see Proc. R. G. S. for this year).

I now proceed with a systematic account of the collection made during this journey, and commence with the Passeres

of the families Corvidæ, Sturnidæ, Oriolidæ, Ploceidæ, Fringillidæ, and Alaudidæ. It will be noticed that Mr. Jackson has furnished me with some very interesting details and particulars as to soft parts, habits, and other particulars.

I have given frequent references to the following papers which treat of the Ornithology of the adjoining districts of Eastern Africa :—

- (1) FISCHER, G. A. "Uebersicht der von Dr. G. A. Fischer auf seiner im Auftrage der Hamburger Geographischen Gesellschaft unternommenen Reise in das Masai-Land gesammelten und beobachteten Vogelarten," Zeitschr. ges. Orn. i. pp. 297–396, pls. 19, 20 (1884).
- (2) SALVADORI, T. "Spedizione Italiana nell' Africa Equatoriale.—Resultati Zoologici : Uccelli dello Scioa e della regione fra Zeila e lo Scioa," Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. (2) i. pp. 7–276 (1884).
- (3) FISCHER, G. A. "Uebersicht der in Ostafrika gesammelten Vogelarten, mit Angabe der verschiedenen Fundorten," J. f. O. 1885, pp. 113–142, Taf. 1.
- (4) REICHENOW, A. "Dr. Fischer's ornithologische Sammlungen während der letzten Reise zum Victoria Niansa ; mit Benutzung der Tagebücher der Reisenden bearbeitet," J. f. O. 1887, pp. 38–78.
- (5) SALVADORI, T. "Catalogo di una Collezione di Uccelli dello Scioa fatta dal Dott. Vincenzo Ragazzi negli anni 1884–86," Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. (2) vi. pp. 185–326 (1888).
- (6) SHELLEY, G. E. "List of Birds collected in Eastern Africa by Mr. Frederick J. Jackson, F.Z.S., with Notes and an Introduction by the Collector," Ibis, 1888, pp. 287–307, pls. vi., vii.
- (7) ——. "On the Birds collected by Mr. H. C. V. Hunter, F.Z.S., in Eastern Africa," P. Z. S. 1889, pp. 356–372, pls. xl., xli.

Order PASSERES.

Fam. CORVIDÆ.

1. HETEROCORAX CAPENSIS.

Heterocorax capensis (Licht.) ; Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. iii. p. 12 (1877) ; Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. (2) vi. p. 301 (1888 ; Shoa).

Corvus capensis minor, Heugl. Orn. N.O.-Afr. i. p. 499 (1870).

Corvus capensis, Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. (2) i. p. 204 (1884).

♂ ♀. Nos. 124, 125. Kavirondo, Dec. 12, 1889.—Iris brown ; bill and legs black. Always seen in pairs.

These birds probably belong to the small race which Heuglin called *Corvus capensis minor*, for the bill is remarkably small when compared with that of typical specimens of *H. capensis* from the Cape Colony. The Shoa specimen in the Museum is identical in colour and size of bill with South-African examples, and it is curious that the Kavirondo birds should differ so perceptibly in the smaller size of the bill. The wings in Mr. Jackson's pair measure 12·5 to 12·7 inches. If the smaller bill be considered sufficient character, the race will have to stand as *Heterocorax minor* (Heugl.).

2. RHINOCORAX AFFINIS.

Rhinocorax affinis (Rüpp.) ; Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. iii. p. 46 (1877) ; Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. (2) vi. p. 301 (1888 ; Shoa).

Corvus affinis, Heugl. Orn. N.O.-Afr. i. p. 502 (1870).

No. 133. Turquel, Suk, Dec. 23, 1889.—Iris brown. A pair seen. Plentiful in Kavamoja, together with *C. scapulatus* and *Corvultur albicollis*.

3. CORVUS SCAPULATUS. *Ab*

Corvus scapulatus, Daud. ; Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. iii. p. 22 (1877) ; Fischer, Zeitschr. ges. Orn. i. p. 337 (1884 ; Pangani) ; Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. (2) i. p. 305 (1884 ; Shoa), vi. p. 301 (1888) ; Fischer, J. f. O. 1885, p. 131 (Zanzibar, Bagamoyo, Mombasa, Malindi) ; Reichen. J. f. O.

1887, p. 66 (Usegua, Usandawi, Ussure, Usukuma, Victoria Nyanza).

No. 119. Victoria Nyanza, Oct. 29, 1889.

Fam. STURNIDÆ.

4. PHOLIDAUGES VERREAUXI.

Pholidauges verreauxi, Bocage; Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 123 (1890); Fischer, Zeitschr. i. p. 335 (Maurui, Pangani, Paré); id. J. f. O. 1885, p. 132 (Zanzibar, Lindi, Bagamoyo, Wapokomoland); Reichen. J. f. O. 1887, p. 66 (Msingissua, Schasche).

Nos. 221, 222. ♂ ad. Savé, Mount Elgon, Feb. 4, 1890; 6000 feet.—Irides bright yellow, pupil very large; legs dull olive-black; bill black. Plentiful in twos and threes in the shambas. First seen in Kitosh.

Nos. 235, 239. ♀ ad. Savé, Feb. 8, 1890.—Legs dusky olive; irides yellow, duller than in the male.

5. LAMPROTORNIS PORPHYROPTERUS.

Lamprotornis purpureoptera, Rüpp. Syst. Nat. pp. 64, 75, taf. 25 (1845); Fischer, Zeitschr. i. p. 336 (Nguruman); id. J. f. O. 1885, p. 132 (Pangani, Witu, Wapokomoland, Lamu); Reichen. J. f. O. 1887, p. 66 (Simiu River, Kagehi, Nassa on Speke Gulf).

Urauges porphyropterus (nom. emend.); Cab. Mus. Hein. Th. i. p. 200 (1850).

Lamprotornis porphyropterus, Heugl. Orn. N.O.-Afr. i. p. 511 (1870); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 156 (1890); Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. (2) i. p. 199 (1884; Shoa). Nos. 211, 212. ♂ ♀ ad. Turquel, Suk, Jan. 28, 1890.—Irides pale yellow; legs and feet black: small ants, &c., in stomach. Plentiful in small flocks; song very sweet.

The male has the wing 6·2 inches, the female 5·6 inches. The female has also a shorter tail than the male, and therefore the differences alluded to by me in the 'Catalogue' may be partly sexual, though Mr. Jackson's birds have not such long tails as the Abyssinian examples. The tail in the male bird from Suk measures 7·1 inches, and in the female 6 inches.

6. *COSMOPSARUS REGIUS*. *Abbott*.

Cosmopsarus regius, Reichen. ; Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 160 (1890) ; Fischer, Zeitschr. i. p. 336 (Paré) ; id. J. f. O. 1885, p. 132 (Massa).

No. 89. ♀ ad. Wilderness Mts., Ndai, River Tskto, Aug. 22, 1890.—Iris white; bill and legs black. Plentiful in small flocks of from four to eight in the wilderness. *av*

GALEOPSAR, gen. n.

Affine generi *Cinnamoptero*, caudâ longissimâ et valde graduatâ; sed rostro curvato, et plumis frontalibus et verticalibus densis, setosis, quasi galeam formantibus, distinguendum.

7. *GALEOPSAR SALVADORII*, sp. n. (Plate IV.)

Adult female. General colour above glossy black, with a steel-blue or steel-green gloss, the green shade being more apparent on the secondaries and wing-coverts; primaries chestnut, with a band of glossy black at the ends, increasing in extent towards the outermost, occupying the terminal third of the second quill, the first short primary being entirely blackish, chestnut only at the extreme base; tail-feathers black, glossed externally with steel-green; head, neck, and entire underparts black glossed with steel-green; the recurved feathers on the forehead velvety black with a green gloss. Total length 15 inches, culmen 0·9, wing 6·1, tail 9, tarsus 1·3.

No. 161. Turquel, Suk, Jan. 15, 1890.—Legs and bill black; irides crimson. The first and only one seen.

The accompanying Plate (Pl. IV.) will give ornithologists a better idea of this extraordinary new genus of Starlings than an elaborate description. The form is very like *Cinnamopterus* in general appearance, but the plumage is green above and below instead of purple, and the dense patch of bristly feathers on the forehead and fore part of crown distinguishes it from this and all other allied genera.

I have named this species after my old and valued friend Count Salvadori, who has taken the greatest interest in Mr. Jackson's collection, and whose assistance, it is needless to

say, in determining some of the species has been most gratefully accepted.

8. *AMYDRUS ELGONENSIS*, sp. n.

A. similis A. walleri, Shelley, sed minor, pileo griseo, plumis medialiter chalybeo-nigris; facie laterali et gutture toto clare griseis, gutture imo et præpectore chalybeo maculatis. Long. tot. 8·2 poll. Angl., culm. 0·8, alæ 4·65, caudæ 3·3, tarsi 0·9.

No. 300. ♀ ad. Mt. Elgon, Feb. 23, 1890.

This is a species closely allied to *Amydrus walleri* of Shelley (*cf.* Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 165) from the Usambara Hills; but it nevertheless appears to be distinct, and Count Salvadori, who has seen the bird, confirms my opinion. It is smaller than *A. walleri*, purer grey on the head, sides of face, and throat; the nape and hind neck, as well as the lower throat, are mottled with mesial spots of steel-green.

9. *AMYDRUS MORIO*.

Amydrus morio (L.); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 161 (1890).

No. 43. ♂ ad. Ulu, Ukambani, Jan. 3, 1889.

No. 172. ♂ ad. Turquel, Suk, Jan. 14, 1890.—Irides crimson. Common.

No. 308. ♀ ad. Mount Elgon, Feb. 24, 1890.—Irides crimson; feet and bill black. Plentiful in flocks.

10. *LAMPROCOLIUS CHALYBEUS*.

Lamprocolius chalybeus (Ehr.); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 176 (1890); Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. (2) i. p. 199 (1884; Shoa), vi. p. 297 (1888).

No. 51. Ad. Lake Naivasha, Sept. 10, 1889.

11. *LAMPROCOLIUS MELANOGASTER*.

Lamprocolius melanogaster (Swains.); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 182 (1890); Fischer, Zeitschr. i. p. 335 (1884; Pangani); id. J. f. O. 1885, p. 132 (Lindi, Bagamoyo, Usaramo, Kipini, Witu, Zanzibar).

Ad. Probably obtained near the coast, as no ticket is attached to the specimen.

12. SPREO SUPERBUS. *Abbott*.

Spreo superbus (Rüpp.) ; Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 189 (1890).

Notauges superbus, Fischer, Zeitschr. i. p. 335 (1884; Little Aruscha, Nguruman) ; id. J. f. O. 1885, p. 132 (Barawa) ; Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. (2) i. p. 199 (1884; Shoa), vi. p. 298 (1888) ; Reichen. J. f. O. 1887, p. 66 (Irangi, Loeru).

No. 101. ♂ ad. Machako's, March 20, 1889.

13. DILOPHUS CARUNCULATUS.

Dilophus carunculatus (Gm.) ; Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 61 (1890) ; Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. (2) i. p. 197 (1884, Shoa), vi. p. 297 (1888) ; Reichen. J. f. O. 1887, p. 66 (Irangi, Wembaere, Simiu River).

No. 349. ♂ ad. Kitosh, March 2, 1890.—Bill dull fleshy white ; bare skin yellow ; legs transparent brown.

No. 82. Juv. Masai Plains, Lake Naivasha, July 30, 1889.—Very plentiful all round Naivasha and north to Kisi-dong, in large flocks. Bill dusky brown ; bare skin of face &c. yellow ; legs brown ; irides brown.

14. BUPHAGA ERYTHORHYNCHA.

Buphaga erythrorhyncha (Stanley) ; Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 196 (1890) ; Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. (2) i. p. 196 (1884; Shoa), vi. p. 297 (1888) ; Fischer, J. f. O. 1885, p. 132 (Mombasa, Aruscha, Sigirari, Mossiro, Witu, Maurui) ; Reichen. J. f. O. 1887, p. 66 (Usegua).

No. 45. ♂ ad. Ulu, Ukambani, Jan. 3, 1889.

No. 350. ♀ ad. Kitosh, March 2, 1890.—Irides bright orange-red ; eyelids yellow ; bill vermilion ; legs olive-green.

Fam. ORIOLIDÆ.

15. ORIOLUS LARVATUS.

Oriolus larvatus, Licht. ; Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. iii. p. 217 (1877).

No. 154. ♀ ad. Turquel, Suk, Jan. 5, 1890.—Bill dusky carmine ; legs scaly slate-colour.

No. 301. ♀ ad. Mount Elgon, Feb. 23, 1890.—Irides

crimson ; legs scaly horn-blue ; bill dull carmine. In thick forest.

No. 324. ♀ ad. Mount Elgon, Feb. 25, 1890.—Bill dull rose-brown ; legs dark horn-blue ; irides crimson.

Fam. PLOCEIDÆ.

16. VIDUA PRINCIPALIS.

Vidua principalis (L.) ; Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 203 (1890) ; Fischer, Zeitschr. i. p. 325 (Pangani, Maurui, Aruscha, Nguruman) ; id. J. f. O. 1885, p. 135 (Bagamoyo, Lamu, Usegua, Wapokomoland) ; Reichen. J. f. O. 1887, p. 70 (Kagehi, Loeru).

Vidua erythrorhyncha (Sw.) ; Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. (2) i. p. 181 (1884 ; Shoa), vi. p. 255 (1888).

No. 65. ♂. Nzoni, Feb. 11, 1889.

17. CHERA PROCNE.

Chera procne (Bodd.) ; Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 213 (1890).

No. 54. ♂ ad. River Bogonoto, Masai Land, July 20, 1890.
—Bill pale horn-blue ; legs dark "shrimp"-brown ; irides brown. A few seen in a swamp amongst the grass two camps after Doreta on our downward march. The females were more plentiful than the males.

This is a remarkable occurrence of a South-African species far away from its supposed habitat. There is not the least doubt, however, that Mr. Jackson's Masai specimen is the true *Chera procne* ; it is identical with a male from Natal in the British Museum. Some of the males in black plumage have orange shoulder-spots, followed by a broad band of buff across the median coverts, whereas others have the shoulder-spot scarlet and the median coverts white. Mr. Jackson's specimen has the scarlet shoulder-patch, and this is, I think, the sign of an older bird.

18. PENTHETRIA ARDENS.

Penthetria ardens (Bodd.) ; Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 215 (1890).

Coliostruthus ardens, Fischer, J. f. O. 1885, p. 135 (Nguru Mountains) ; Shelley, Ibis, 1888, p. 293 (Kilima-njaro).
Nos. 14, 15, 21. Mararu, Teita, Dec. 12 and 13, 1888.

19. PENTHETRIA LATICAUDA.

Penthetria laticauda (Licht.) ; Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 218 (1890) ; Fischer, Zeitschr. i. p. 326 (Komboko, Súsua, Great Aruscha, Naivasha) ; id. J. f. O. 1885, p. 135.

Coliuspasser laticauda, Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. (2) i. p. 182 (1884 ; Shoa), vi. p. 286 ; Reichen. J. f. O. 1887, p. 70 (Ukira) ; Shelley, Ibis, 1888, p. 293 (Kilima-njaro).

No. 13. ♂ ad. Elgeyo, July 4, 1890 ; alt. 8000 to 9000 feet.—Only seen in long reeds and bulrushes at the swampy end of the small lake on the top of Elgeyo. Evidently breeding.

No. 61. ♂ ad. Lake Nahuro, Masai, July 23, 1890.—Bill and legs black ; irides brown. Very plentiful in the long grass near Lake Nahuro.

“This bird has a curious habit of making a playground for itself. I noticed several in the long grass, and I saw the male evidently playing, as it darted several times into the air to a height of about four feet, and then darted down again. Their ‘playing-ground’ is evidently a work of some time, as the grass is all worn away in an irregular circle, with the exception of a small tuft left in the centre with two or three little recesses at the base, which are evidently the result of the birds’ play.”

No. 90. ♂ juv. Lumbwa, Oct. 8, 1889.—Irides brown ; legs slaty flesh-colour.

I have not had a sufficient number of young birds of *P. laticauda* for a comparison with this specimen, which may after all be a young of *P. ardens*, though it is almost impossible to distinguish the immature birds of these two allied species.

20. PENTHETRIA EQUES.

Penthetria eques (Hartl.) ; Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 220 (1890) ; Fischer, Zeitschr. i. p. 326 (Maurui).

Urobrachya eques, Fischer, J. f. O. 1885, p. 135 (Maurui).

Coliuspasser eques, Shelley, Ibis, 1888, p. 293 (Kilimanjaro).

No. 34. ♂ ad. Kikumbuliu, on the march, Dec. 26, 1888.

Nos. 39, 40. ♂ ad. Kikumbuliu, Dec. 29, 1888.

Nos. 51, 52. ♂ ♀ ad. Ulu, Ukambani, Jan. 7, 1889.

DREPANOPECTES, gen. n.

Generi *Penthetria* affine, sed rectricibus latoribus et versus apicem decurvatis distinguendum.

21. DREPANOPECTES JACKSONI, sp. n. (Plate V.)

Adult male. Entirely black above and below, the head crested and the hind neck with a large frill reaching to the mantle; the tail-feathers curved and with a ribbed appearance of transverse bars under certain lights; wings browner than the back, and edged externally with lighter or reddish brown; bastard-wing and primary-coverts blackish, with an external fringe of light brown; the inner secondaries black with brown edges; a shoulder-patch of light olive-brown, the lesser wing-coverts being of this colour, the greater series blackish with tawny buff edges, the greater coverts, bastard-wing, primary-coverts, and quills brown, narrowly margined with whity brown, the inner secondaries black with whity-brown margins; under wing-coverts and axillaries deep tawny buff; quills light brown below. Total length 11·5 inches, culmen 0·7, wing 3·4, tail 7·0, tarsus 1·15.

Adult female. Different from the male and resembling a female *Penthetria*, light brown, streaked with black, the tail round and slightly graduated; no light shoulder-patch, the lesser wing-coverts being like the back; a distinct eyebrow of tawny buff slightly tinged with orange; lores and a streak below the eye whitish, with a tinge of orange on the cheeks; under surface of body light tawny buff, a little washed with orange on the breast, which is streaked with black like the sides of the body; the centre of the abdomen whitish; under wing-coverts tawny. Total length 6·4 inches, culmen 0·7, wing 3·5, tail 2·2, tarsus 1·2.

No. 122. ♂ juv. Kikuyu, Oct. 14, 1889.

- No. 56. ♂ ad. Masai Land, July 22, 1890.—Bill pale pea-green, the base of the lower mandible up to the nostril black; legs dark "shrimp"-brown; iris brown. Seen in flocks in the long grasses.
- No. 57. ♂ juv. Masai Land, July 22, 1890.—Legs pale brown; bill pale horn-brown, lower mandible whitish brown; iris brown.
- Nos. 58, 59. ♀ ad. Masai Land, July 22, 1890.—Seen in flocks in the long grasses in the vicinity of old sites of villages in the Masai country north of Lake Nahuro.
- No. 60. ♂ ad. Masai Land, July 23, 1890.—Soft parts as in No. 56.

22. PENTHETRIOPSIS SOROR.

Penthetriopsis soror, Reichen. J. f. O. 1887, p. 70 (Kawanga); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 223.

- No. 12. ♂ ad. Kavirondo, June 24, 1890.—Legs black; bill black, edge of lower mandible pale horn-blue; irides brown. Plentiful in the long grassy hollows.

This species is barely separable from *P. macrocerca*, but is a trifle smaller, and has the wing-spot rather more of a lemon-yellow.

23. UROBRACHYA PHŒNICEA.

Urobrachya phænicea (Heugl.); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 225 (1890).

Penthethria phænicea, Reichen. J. f. O. 1887, p. 70 (Kageli, Magu, Ukira).

Penthethria (Urobrachya) zanzibarica, Fischer, Zeitschr. i. p. 326 (1884; Maurui).

Urobrachya zanzibarica, Fischer, J. f. O. 1885, p. 134 (Maurui, Tschara, Engatana).

- Nos. 114, 115, 116. ♂ juv. Victoria Nyanza, Oct. 26, 1889.—Bill horn-blue, dusky at base; legs pale brown, with a slaty tint.

No. 126. ♀ ad. Victoria Nyanza, Oct.

24. PYROMELANA FLAMMICEPS.

Pyromelana flammiceps (Swains.); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 228 (1890).

Euplectes flammiceps, Fischer, Zeitschr. i. p. 327 (Pangani, Maurui, Aruscha, Nguruman); id. J. f. O. 1885, p. 134 (Lindi, Zanzibar, Bagamoyo to Lamu, Ngauru Mountains).
No. 11. ♂ ad. Dindi, Kavirondo, June 16, 1890.—Bill black; irides brown. Rather scarce. Breeding. Found in the long grass in swampy places.

25. PYROMELANA FRANCISCANA.

Pyromelana franciscana (Isert); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 233 (1890).

Euplectes franciscanus, Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. (2) i. p. 184 (Shoa), vi. p. 288 (1888).

No. 27. ♂ ad. Elgeyo, July 8, 1890.—Legs flesh-colour; bill black; irides brown. Shot in swamp.

26. PYROMELANA DIADEMATA.

Pyromelana diademata (Fisch. & Reichen.); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 236; Shelley, Ibis, 1888, p. 302 (Jipi).

Euplectes diadematus, Fischer, Zeitschr. i. p. 327 (1884; Pangani); id. J. f. O. 1885, p. 134 (Malindi, Wapokomoland, Lamu).

No. 127. ♂ ad. Teita, April 19, 1889.

No. 37. ♂ ad. Njemps, Lake Baringo, July 13, 1890.—Irides brown; legs brownish flesh-colour, claws dusky. Plentiful in the long grass on the river Tigrish at Njemps, Baringo.

Considerable difference is shown in the extent of the spot on the forehead, which is also more scarlet than was the case with the specimen procured by Mr. Jackson at Lamu (*cf.* Sharpe, *l. c.*).

27. PYROMELANA XANTHOMELÆNA.

Pyromelana xanthomelæna (Rüpp.); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 239 (1890).

Orynx capensis (L.); Fischer, Zeitschr. i. p. 326 (Susua, Great Aruscha, Pangani); id. J. f. O. 1885, p. 134 (Lindi, Bagamoyo, Lamu).

Euplectes xanthomelas, Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. (2) i. p. 186 (1884; Shoa), vi. p. 289.

Coliuspasser xanthomelas, Shelley, Ibis, 1888, p. 293 (Between Taveta and Moshi).

No. 15. ♂ ad. Mararu, Teita, Dec. 12, 1888.

No. 259. ♂ juv. Savé, Elgon, 6000 feet, Dec. 13, 1890.—Iris brown; legs pale fleshy brown; the lower mandible pale horn-colour.

No. 14. ♂ ad. Elgeyo, July 6, 1890.—Iris brown; legs brown; bill bluish horny white. Plentiful along the hill-side. Evidently breeding.

No. 21. ♂ ad. Elgeyo, July 7, 1890. Legs dark brown; irides brown; bill horn-blue.

28. PYROMELANA TAHA.

Pyromelana taha (Smith); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 242.

No. 55. ♂ ad. Masai Land, July 20, 1890.—Irides brown; bill black; legs "shrimp"-brown. Breeding in small numbers in a swamp two marches south of Doreta.

This is a small form of *P. taha*, with smaller measurements, and having the golden yellow of the head and back paler, but I do not propose to separate it specifically, as, if *Chera procne* extends to the interior of Eastern Africa, why should not also *P. taha*?

29. PHILETÆRUS EMINI.

Nigrita emini, Reichenow, J. f. O. 1891, p. 4.

The four specimens sent by Mr. Jackson are certainly paler than in *P. arnaudi*, and have the head lighter pearly grey. I expected that they would have proved to be *P. dorsalis* of Reichenow (J. f. O. 1887, p. 71), but the latter gentleman has just forwarded me (March 6, 1891) a printed separate copy of his paper on Emin Pasha's last collection, and I find that he has called this species *P. emini*.

30. QUELEA CARDINALIS.

Quelea cardinalis (Hartl.); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 256 (1890).

Hyphantica cardinalis, Fischer, J. f. O. 1885, p. 134 (Nguruman).

Nos. 35, 36. Njemps, Baringo, July 13, 1890.—Bill black; legs pale yellowish brown; irides brown. Very plentiful in the long bushy grass.

No. 50, ♀ of No. 35. Njemps, July 16, 1890.—Feet pale brownish grey; bill dusky, the lower mandible dusky yellow; iris brown.

31. *QUELEA ÆTHIOPICA*.

Quelea æthiopica (Sundev.); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 259 (1890); Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. (2) i. p. 193 (1884; Shoa), vi. p. 293 (1888).

No. 16. ♀ juv. Mararu, Teita, Dec. 12, 1888.

No. 103. ♂ ad. Machako's, March 21, 1887.

Hyphantica æthiopica, Fischer, Zeitschr. i. p. 327 (1884; Ngare Kiti); id. J. f. O. 1885, p. 134 (Pangani, Kipini, Massa, Paré, Nguruman); Reichen. J. f. O. 1887, p. 70 (Kagehi).

32. *PLOCEIPASSER MELANORHYNCHUS*.

Ploceipasser melanorhynchus, Rüpp.; Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 246; Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. (2) i. p. 177 (Shoa), vi. p. 295 (1888).

Philagrus melanorhynchus, Fischer, J. f. O. 1885, p. 134 (Nguruman).

No. 55. ♂ ad. Kitua, Jan. 21, 1889.

No. 124. ♂ ad. Machako's, Ukambani, April 9, 1889.

33. *COCCOPYGIA KILIMENSIS*.

Coccopygia kilimensis, Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 307.

No. 72. ♂ ad. Sotik, Oct. 3, 1889.—Iris brown.

34. *HYPOCHÆRA ULTRAMARINA*.

Hypochæra ultramarina (Gm.); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 309 (1890); Fischer, J. f. O. 1885, p. 135 (Kipumbui, Paré, Nguruman, Usegua, Lindi); Reichen. J. f. O. 1887 p. 70 (Kagehi).

Hypochæra nitens, var. *ultramarina*, Fischer, Zeitschr. i. p. 325 (1884; Paré, Aruscha, Nguruman).

Hypochæra nitens (nec Gm.); Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. (2) i. p. 181 (Shoa).

No. 36. ♂ ad. Kikumbuliu, Ukambani, Dec. 28, 1888.

No. 43. ♂ ad. Njemps, Lake Baringo, July 15, 1890.—

Bill white horn-colour; legs pink; irides brown.

Agreeing with the series in the British Museum from Abyssinia and the White Nile.

35. NIGRITA SCHISTACEA.

Nigrita schistacea, Sharpe, Ibis, 1891, p. 118.

No. 74. ♀ ad. Sotik, Oct. 3, 1889.—Iris yellow; legs brown; bill black. Only saw one other specimen, on the edge of the Mau Forest.

I have pointed out (above, p. 118) the characters which distinguish this new species from *N. emiliæ*.

36. UROLONCHA CANICEPS.

Uroloncha caniceps (Reichen.); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 356.

Spermestes caniceps, Fischer, J. f. O. 1885, p. 136 (Massa); Reichen. J. f. O. 1887, p. 71 (Wembaere, Nassa).

No. 177. ♀. Turquel, Suk, Jan. 16, 1890.—Bill and legs horn-blue; iris brown. First seen in small flocks of from eight or ten at Karakau, in Suk. Feeds on the minutest grass-seeds.

37. ESTRILDA MINOR.

Estrilda minor (Cab.); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 394.

Adult. Ukambani.

38. ESTRILDA PHÆNICOTIS.

Estrilda phænicotis, Swains.; Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 400.

Uræginthus phænicotis, Fischer, Zeitschr. i. p. 324 (1884; Pangani, Aruscha, Nguruman); id. J. f. O. 1885, p. 135 (Bagamoyo, Usegua, Mombasa); Reichen. J. f. O. 1887, p. 71 (Wembaere Steppes, Kagehi); Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. (2) i. p. 177 (Shoa), vi. p. 278 (1888).

No. 38. ♂. Kikumbuliu, Dec. 28, 1888.

39. SPOROPIPES FRONTALIS.

Sporopipes frontalis (V.); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 409 (1890).

- No. 25. ♂ ad. Elgeyo, July 8, 1890.—Bill dusky horn-blue; legs bluish flesh-colour; irides brown. First seen at Elgeyo, breeding.
- No. 26. ♀ ad. Elgeyo, July 8, 1890.—Soft parts as in the male. Found breeding in an acacia tree. Makes a large nest of dried grass, not unlike that of our Common Sparrow.

40. *HETERHYPHANTES REICHENOWI*.

Heterhyphantes reichenowi (Fischer); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 418 (1890).

Hyphanturgus reichenowi, Fischer, Zeitschr. i. p. 331 (1884; Great Aruscha, Naivasha, Sigirari); id. J. f. O. 1885, p. 132.

- No. 243. ♂ ad. Savé, Mt. Elgon, Feb. 10, 1890, 6000 feet.—Irides cream-colour; bill black; legs brownish flesh-colour.
- No. 16. ♀ ad. Elgeyo, July 6, 1890.—Bill black; legs brownish flesh-colour; iris straw-colour.
- No. 66. ♂ ad. Elmekita, Masai Land, July 25, 1890.—Bill black; legs pale brownish flesh-colour; irides cream-colour.
- No. 4. ♂ juv. Kikuyu Shambos, Aug. 13, 1889.—Young of Black-backed and Black-headed Weaver with white irides.

Young male. Entirely different from the adults. General colour above olive-yellow, the mantle and upper back streaked with black centres to the feathers; crown of the head and sides of the face more olive-greenish, with an obsolete superciliary streak of olive above the ear-coverts; wing-coverts black, externally edged with olive-yellow, the median and greater series golden yellow towards their ends; quills also black, edged with olive-yellow, inclining to golden yellow towards the end of the outer web; the inner secondaries broadly edged with yellowish white, with an outer fringe of olive-yellow; tail olive, yellowish along the outer margin; cheeks, sides of neck, and entire under surface of body bright golden yellow, the breast and sides of body slightly

inclining to orange; under wing-coverts yellow; quills olive-brown below, yellowish along the inner web. Total length 6·1 inches, culmen 0·7, wing 3, tail 2·2, tarsus 0·85.

No. 4. ♂ juv. Kikuyu, Aug. 13, 1889.

I have described the young bird, as it is so very different from the adults in colour that it would have been difficult to determine that it belonged to this species. Mr. Jackson, however, settles the question in his notes, when he says that it is the "young of the black-backed and black-headed Weaver with the white irides."

41. *HETERHYPHANTES STEPHANOPHORUS*. (Plate VI. fig. 2.)

Heterhyphantes stephanophorus, Sharpe, Ibis, 1891, p. 117.

I have already described this species (*anteà*, p. 117). It is one of the interesting evidences of the presence of a West-African element in the avifauna of Central East-Africa.

42. *SYCOBROTUS INSIGNIS*. (Plate VI. fig. 1.)

Sycobrotus insignis, Sharpe, Ibis, 1891, p. 117.

43. *HYPHANTORNIS ABYSSINICUS*.

Hyphantornis abyssinicus (Gm.); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 453 (1890); Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. (2) i. p. 187 (1884; Shoa), vi. p. 289 (1888).

Nos. 28, 30. ♂ ad. River Elgeyo, July 9, 1890.—Legs pale bluish flesh-colour; irides pale orange-red; bill black. A colony in a swamp; breeding.

44. *HYPHANTORNIS NIGRICEPS*. ✓

Hyphantornis nigriceps, Layard; Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 456 (1890); Fischer, Zeitschr. i. p. 331 (Pangani); id. J. f. O. 1885, p. 133 (Bagamoyo, Wapokomoland, Barawa).

Ploceus nigriceps, Shelley, Ibis, 1888, p. 302 (Tangani).

No. 64. ♂ juv. Makarunga, Feb. 1, 1889.

45. *HYPHANTORNIS JACKSONI*. ✓

Hyphantornis jacksoni, Shelley, Ibis, 1888, p. 293, pl. vii.

Hyphantornis dimidiatus (*nec* Salvad.), Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 459 (1890).

No. 29. ♂ ad. Elgeyo, July 9, 1890.—Legs pale “shrimp”-brown; bill black; irides orange-red. Breeding in swamp.

No. 31. Elgeyo, July 9, 1890.

Count Salvadori thinks that I am wrong in having united *H. jacksoni* to *H. dimidiatus*, as the black on the head apparently extends further on to the nape in the former species.

46. *HYPHANTORNIS VITELLINUS*.

Hyphantornis vitellinus, Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 462 (1890); Fischer, Zeitschr. i. p. 331 (1884; Nguruman); id. J. f. O. 1885, p. 133.

Nos. 33, 34. ♂ ♀ ad. Kamassia, July 12, 1890.—The male has the bill black; legs pale lilac flesh-colour; irides crimson. Found this pair building a nest. In the female the bill was “dusky, the legs flesh-colour, the irides pale crimson.”

This is not *H. reichardi* of Reichenow, as I expected it would be; but at the same time it is not quite true *H. vitellinus*, as it has somewhat more black at the base of the forehead.

47. *HYPHANTORNIS SPEKII*.

Hyphantornis spekii, Heugl.; Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 469 (1890); Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. (2) i. p. 188 (Shoa).

No. 97. ♂ juv. Machako's, March 20, 1889.

No. 100. ♂ ad. Machako's, March 20, 1889.

The young male is described by me in the ‘Catalogue’ (*l. c.*).

48. *CINNAMOPTERYX RUBIGINOSA*. *Nig. 77 ?*

Cinnamopteryx rubiginosa (Rüpp.); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 473 (1890); Fischer, J. f. O. 1885, p. 133 (Mambrui, Barawa).

♂ ad. Gulu gulu, Nov. 9, 1888.—Irides red-brown; legs pale grey.

No. 39. ♂ ad. Njemps, Lake Baringo, July 13, 1890.—Bill black; irides bright reddish brown; legs pale horn-blue. Very plentiful; breeding in great numbers in the thorn-trees.

No. 40. ♀ of above. Njemps, July 13, 1890.—Legs pale horn-blue; bill dusky; irides bright reddish brown.

No. 51. ♀ ad. Njemps, July 16, 1890.—Bill dusky black; other soft parts as in No. 40.

49. *DINEMELLIA DINEMELLI*. *Abbott*.

Dinemellia dinemelli (Rüpp.); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 506 (1890).

Textor dinemelli, Fischer, Zeitschr. i. p. 333 (Paré); Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. (2) i. p. 194 (1884; Shoa); Fischer, J. f. O. 1885, p. 132 (Wapokomoland, Barawa); Shelley, P. Z. S. 1889, p. 368 (Useri river).

Dinemellia leucocephala, Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. (2) vi. p. 296 (1888).

No. 4. ♂ ad. Butzsuma, Teita, Dec. 3, 1888.

50. *TEXTOR SCIOANUS*.

Textor scioanus, Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. (2) i. p. 195 (1884; Shoa), vi. p. 296 (1888); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 511.

Ad. Kikuyu country.

Fam. FRINGILLIDÆ.

51. *CRITHAGRA ALBIFRONS*.

Crithagra albifrons, Sharpe, Ibis, 1891, p. 118.

No. 44. ♂. Kikuyu, Aug. 5, 1889.—Irides brown; bill dusky horn; legs brown. *Type*.

No. 323. ♂. Mount Elgon, Feb. 25, 1890.—Irides brown; bill dark horn-brown; legs pale brownish horn. In thick forest.

I append a full description of the typical specimen.

Adult male. General colour above brown, with a wash of olive-green; wing-coverts dusky brown edged with olive, the greater series with a narrow whitish tip; the median coverts with a larger whitish spot at the ends, forming a double wing-bar; primary-coverts and quills blackish brown, edged with olive-yellow, the inner secondaries with whitish; tail-feathers dark brown with olive-yellow edges; head rather more dusky than the back; forehead white across the base; eyelid white;

sides of face dusky brown, with a patch of white below the ear-coverts; the chin dusky grey; the cheeks and throat mottled with white; lower throat, fore neck, and chest dusky brown, becoming more ashy on the latter; lower breast and abdomen pale ochreous buff, becoming whiter on the under tail-coverts; sides of body dusky brown and streaked with brown; thighs dusky brown; axillaries and under wing-coverts ochreous olive, as well as the margin of the wing.

Another male is rather browner than the one described and may be a younger bird. The bands on the wing are ochreous buff, and the olive on the quills has a brownish tinge. Underneath the colour is rather more rufescent and the dusky streaks on the flanks are less pronounced.

52. *PASSER RUFICINCTUS*.

Passer ruficinctus, Fischer & Reichenow, J. f. O. 1884, p. 55; Fischer, Zeitschr. ges. Orn. i. p. 319 (Naivasha); Reichen. J. f. O. 1887, p. 72 (Loeru, Masai Land); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xii. p. 325.

No. 55. ♂. Kikuyu, Sept. 14, 1889.—Irides brownish white; legs dull dusky brown.

Nos. 56 & 57. ♀. Kikuyu, Sept. 14, 1889.

Nos. 68 & 69. ♂ ♀. Masai Land, July 26, 1890.—Legs pale brown; bill dusky horn; irides creamy yellow. Very plentiful in the vicinity of kraals. At present breeding. Builds nest like that of our Common Sparrow, large and very rough, of dry grass, lined with feathers; nest placed in any small tree or bush.

This is evidently the true *Passer ruficinctus* of Reichenow, and the bird so named by Captain Shelley from Lado (P. Z. S. 1888, p. 36) is distinct. It is a smaller and paler bird, with white cheeks like *P. motitensis*, but differing both from that species and from *P. ruficinctus* in having a black patch behind the ear-coverts. It may thus be diagnosed:—

PASSER SHELLEYI, sp. n.

P. similis P. motitensi, sed valde minor, et plagâ postauriculari nigrâ facile distinguendus. Long. tot. 5·3, culm. 0·5, alæ 2·75, caudæ 1·8, tarsi 0·65.

Hab. Lado (*Emîn Pasha*).

The female of *P. ruficinctus* resembles the same sex of *Passer motitensis*, but is much smaller, and is distinguishable by the ashy grey throat and ear-coverts as well as by its dark brown flanks. Total length 5·7 inches, culmen 0·5, wing 2·9, tail 1·75, tarsus 0·7.

53. PASSER EMINI.

Passer emini, Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xii. p. 332 (Lado), p. 827 (Redjaf).

Sorella emini, Hartlaub, Abhandl. nat. Ver. Bremen, vii. p. 104 (Lado), viii. p. 201 (Lado); Fischer, Zeitschr. ges. Orn. i. p. 322 (Nguruman); Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. (2) i. p. 174 (Shoa); Reichen. J. f. O. 1887, p. 72 (Wembaere).

No. 38. ♂ ad. Njemps, Baringo, July 13, 1890.—Irides brown; bill dullish brown-black; legs dusky flesh-colour. Very plentiful.

Nos. 47 & 48. ♀ ad. Njemps, July 16, 1890.—Bill dusky horn-brown; legs pale horn-brown; irides brown.

No. 49. ♂ ad. Njemps, July 16, 1890.

No. 52. ♀ ad. Njemps, July 16, 1890.—Legs pale brown; bill dusky horn; irides brown.

54. PASSER SWAINSONI.

Passer swainsoni (Rüpp.), Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. (2) i. p. 176 (Shoa); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xii. p. 334; Fischer, J. f. O. 1885, p. 136 (Malindi, Wapokomoland, Aruscha, Naivasha); Reichen. J. f. O. 1887, p. 72 (Kagehi, Magala).

Nos. 47 & 48. ♂ ♀ ad. Ulu, Ukambani.

55. SERINUS FLAVIVERTEX.

Serinus flavivertex (Blanf.), Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 351; Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. (2) vi. p. 274 (Shoa).

Crithagra flavivertex, Fischer, Zeitschr. ges. Orn. i. p. 322 (Great Aruscha).

No. 24. ♂. Kikuyu, Aug. 26, 1889.—Irides brown; legs dark horn-brown.

No. 29. ♀. Kikuyu, Aug. 29, 1889.—Irides brown; legs dark horn-brown.

No. 42. ♂ ad. Kikuyu, Sept. 4, 1889.—Legs dark brown; irides brown.

56. *SERINUS STRIOLATUS*.

Serinus striolatus (Rüpp.); Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. (2) i. p. 171 (Shoa), vi. p. 271 (1888); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xii. p. 363; Shelley, P. Z. S. 1889, p. 367 (Kilima-njaro, 5000 ft.).

Poliospiza striolata, Fischer, Zeitschr. i. p. 231 (Great Aruscha).

Crithagra striolata, Fischer, J. f. O. 1885, p. 136.

No. 6. ♀. Kikuyu, Aug. 14, 1889.—Irides brown; legs dusky brown; bill dusky.

No. 39. ♀. Kikuyu, Sept. 4, 1889.—Irides brown; legs dusky brown.

No. 275. ♂. Mount Elgon, camp at 11,000 feet, Feb. 16, 1890.—Irides brown; legs dark olive-brown, almost black; bill dusky horn-brown. First noticed at 11,000 feet.

No. 277. ♀. Shot inside the large crater of Elgon, 13,200 feet, Feb. 17, 1890.—Irides brown, as in No. 275; generally in pairs.

Taken as a whole the members of the present series, as well as the Kilimanjaro birds in the British Museum, are darker than Abyssinian examples.

57. *POLIOSPIZA STRIATIPECTUS*, sp. n.

Adult male. Above light brown, the back slightly streaked with white, the rump also mottled with white; wings darker brown, the median and greater coverts tipped with whitish and the quills margined with ashy white, a little broader on the secondaries; tail-feathers dark brown; head brown, streaked with white; a narrow whitish eyebrow; lores, feathers round the eye, ear-coverts, and cheeks brown, with a small streak of white along the centre of the cheeks; under surface of body dull white, with small brown streaks on the throat, becoming broader and more distinct on the

breast and flanks; thighs brown; under wing-coverts and axillaries ashy brown; quills dusky brown below, ashy along the edge of the inner web. Total length 5·5 inches, culmen 0·45, wing 3·25, tail 2·1, tarsus 0·55.

Adult female. Similar to the male. Total length 5·5 inches, culmen 0·5, wing 3·1, tail 2·15, tarsus 0·55.

Nos. 23 & 24. Elgeyo, July 8, 1890.—Irides brown; bill dusky horn; legs brown. First seen to-day. Breeding. Sings very sweetly, like a Linnet.

This species is apparently different from all the other species of *Poliospiza* by reason of the streaks on the throat and breast. In this respect it resembles the young of *P. gularis*, but is easily distinguished by its white under surface.

58. EMBERIZA FLAVIVENTRIS.

Emberiza flaviventris (Bonn. et V.); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xii. p. 499; Shelley, P. Z. S. 1889, p. 367 (Useri river). No. 32. ♂ ad. Kamassia, July 11, 1890.—Irides brown; upper mandible black, lower brownish horn; legs dusky flesh-colour.

This is a large form of *E. flaviventris* with much greyer flanks, the grey colour extending over the whole of the sides of the breast, but I cannot separate it specifically from that species.

59. FRINGILLARIA SEPTEMSTRIATA.

Fringillaria septemstriata (Rüpp.); Salvad. Ann. Mus. Civic. Genov. (2) i. p. 171 (Shoa), vi. p. 209 (1888); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xii. p. 559.

No. 174. ♂ ad. Turquel, Suk, Jan. 15, 1890.—Irides brown; legs pale fleshy brown. Very plentiful along the stony banks of the rivers in the hills.

60. FRINGILLARIA TAHAPISI.

Fringillaria tahapisi (Smith); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xii. p. 558 (1888).

Emberiza capistrata, Licht.; Reichen. J. f. O. 1887, p. 73 (Kagehi).

No. 44. ♂ ad. Ulu, Ukambani, Jan. 3, 1889.

Compared with a Transvaal specimen this bird seems to be absolutely identical.

Fam. ALAUDIDÆ.

61. *TEPHROCORYS CINEREA*.

Tephrocorys cinerea (Gm.); Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 561.

No. 47. ♂ ad. Kikuyu, Sept. 10, 1889.

Slightly darker than South-African examples, with dusky brown ear-coverts and more rufous wings, but I think not separable from *T. cinerea*.

62. *MIRAFRA AFRICANA*.

Mirafra africana, Sharpe, Cat. B. Brit. Mus. xiii. p. 607 (1890).

No. 42. ♂ ad. Ulu, Ukambani, Jan. 3, 1889.

Although this specimen is in freshly moulted plumage and looks rather different from South-African examples, I cannot separate it specifically.

[To be continued.]

XXIV.—*Letters from Mr. J. GRAHAM KERR, Naturalist to the Pilcomayo Expedition**.

S.S. 'Bolivia,' Rio Pilcomayo.

Lat. 24° 50' S.; Long. 58° 40' W.

June 25th, 1890.

I AM afraid you will be thinking that I have vanished from the face of the earth, it is so long since I have had an opportunity of writing to you. As a canoe is being sent down the river for provisions, I take the chance of sending you a few lines, necessarily brief, as there is little time left, and I only learned quite accidentally that the canoe was to be sent off. I shall confine myself to a brief epitome of our progress so far in the Pilcomayo. We entered the river on March 12th, after having passed three most tedious months, rushing hither and thither between different parts on the Paraná.

* For previous letters see above, p. 13, and 'Ibis,' 1890, p. 350.



J. G. Keulemans del et lith

Mintern Bros. imp.

GALEOPSAR SALVADORII.



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